

Message Text

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ORIGIN SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 JUSE-00 L-03 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 CIAE-00

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DRAFTED BY SCA;SCS;RJBOYLAN;ESN
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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE: MR. BRUNO RISTAU, RM 3613, MAIN JUSTICE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
USARMY CID COMMAND

UNCLAS STATE 153376

SECDEF FOR PDASD(C) -- CID COMMAND FOR CIOP-FR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CGEN: (U.S. V. SIMMONS)

SUBJECT: PRESS COVERAGE OF SIMMONS' ARREST

REF: STATE 151000

MMARY: A BRIEF SURVEY OF FRIDAY'S PAPERS REVEALS THAT
SIMMONS' ARREST RECEIVED SCANT PUBLICITY, WITH THE NEW YORK
TIMES IGNORING IT ENTIRELY, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL GIVING
IT TWO SENTENCES ON PAGE ONE, THE WASHINGTON POST THREE
PARAGRAPHS ON PAGE A-9, AND THE WASHINGTON STAR THREE
PARAGRAPHS ON PAGE A-5. ONLY THE POST MENTIONED THE CURRENT
PROCEEDINGS IN HONG KONG COURTS.

1. LATE CITY EDITION OF THE NEW YORK TIMES FOR FRIDAY,
6/27/75 CONTAINED NO MENTION OF SIMMONS' ARREST.

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2. WALL STREET JOURNAL, EASTERN EDITION, 6/27/75 CARRIED
THE FOLLOWING ITEM ON PAGE ONE, COL. 3, AS THE SEVENTH OF
18 ITEMS IN ITS WORLD NEWS ROUNDUP:

A FORMER U.S. DEFENSE OFFICIAL IN VIETNAM WHOSE JOB WAS TO
BUY OIL PRODUCTS FOR THE THIEU REGIME WITH U.S. AID
FUNDS WAS ARRESTED AND CHARGED WITH BILKING THE GOVERNMENT
OF \$1.2 MILLION. HE IS DAVID C. SIMMONS, 32.

3. EARLY EDITION OF WASHINGTON POST FOR 6/27/75 FEATURED
A FOUR COLUMN HEADLINE ("EX-MAJOR HELD IN FRAUD SCHEME")
IN ITS "AROUND THE NATION" NEWS WRAP-UP ON PAGE A-9.
THE THREE PARAGRAPH STORY CONTAINED THE GIST OF YESTERDAY'S
NEWS RELEASE PLUS THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

"THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAD OBTAINED AN EARLIER COURT ORDER
IN HONG KONG FREEZING ABOUT \$2 MILLION IN BANK ACCOUNTS,
APPARENTLY MOST OF IT IN SIMMONS' NAME. SIMMONS SAID HE
WAS WORTH "MORE THAN THAT" BECAUSE OF HIS WIFE'S BUSINESS
INTERESTS, INCLUDING RUBBER AND COFFEE PLANTATIONS, BEAUTY,
BARBER AND JEWELRY SHOPS AND A CONTROLLING INTEREST IN A
BANK".

4. EARLY EDITION OF WASHINGTON STAR FOR 6/27/75 ON PAGE
A-5, COL. 1, IN A REGULAR SECTION OF BRIEF STORIES ENTITLED
"THE NATION" CARRIED A STORY OF SIMILAR CONTENT AND LENGTH,
BUT WITHOUT THE REFERENCE TO THE COURT ACTION IN HONG
KONG.

5. WASHINGTON TV CHANNEL 5 TEN O'CLOCK NEWS CARRIED THE
STORY ON 6/26/75 IN A SHORT FACTUAL PARAGRAPH ABOUT THE
ARREST AND CHARGES. INGERSOLL

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